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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of)
ROSENBERG et al.) BOX PCT
)
International Application)
PCT/EP 99/06672)
)
Filed: September 9, 1999)
)
For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PRODUCING TABLETS

#3
N.L.H.
5-21-01

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

3. A process as claimed in claim 1 [either of claims 1 or 2], wherein a force with a component parallel to the plane of the tablet belt is allowed to act on the tablet belt for singulation of the tablets.
4. A process as claimed in claim 2 [either of claims 2 or 3], wherein the perpendicular force component is generated by diverting the solidified tablet belt out of its transport plane.
5. A process as claimed in claim 3 [either of claims 3 or 4], wherein the parallel force component is generated by exerting a traction force on the solidified tablet belt.
7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the singulating means [(40)] comprises at least one rotatable roller [(41)] for diverting the tablet belt [(14)] out of a transport plane [(34)] of the first transport means [(30)].
8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the singulating means [(40)] comprises two counter-rotating rollers [(41, 42)] which can be pressed against one another.
9. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6 [any of claims 6 to 8], wherein the singulating means [(40)] comprises at least one brush roller or embossed roller [(41)].
10. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6 [any of claims 6 to 9], wherein the first transport means [(30)] comprises means [(70)] for cooling the extruded tablet belt.
11. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6 [any of claims 6 to 10], wherein a second transport means [(60)] is provided between the singulating means [(40)] and the deflashing means